



Governor Brian Schweitzer

Montana

Department of Labor and Industry

Business Standards Division

SENATE JUDICIARY
EXHIBIT NO. 9
DATE 3/19/09
HB 362

MONTANA BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

March 17, 2009

To the Senate Judiciary Committee

Mr. Chairman Perry and committee members:

On behalf of the Montana Board of Medical Examiners, I would like to encourage your support and passage of HB 362. The Board of Medical Examiners unanimously endorsed this bill following discussion at our February meeting.

Our understanding of this bill is that it will improve the disaster protocols by revising laws related to disaster and emergency services. It defines disaster medicine, clarifies when disaster medicine can be practiced, and provides immunity to those health care providers that assist in a declared disaster emergency.

The primary purpose of the Board of Medical Examiners is to ensure public health, safety and welfare is protected. As we understand it, this bill provides needed clarity in times when the practice of disaster medicine is authorized. Individuals will still need to practice within their scope of practice. This is a proactive measure that will assist in delivering needed health care services in the most strenuous times and with limited resources.

We encourage you to support HB 362.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "James Upchurch".

James Upchurch, M.D.
Chair, MT Board of Medical Examiners